

support, peacekeeping, nation-building, and civil support, and is instrumental in the progress that our military makes each day.

The Army Reserve forms the backbone of our Nation's military. During today's ceremony commemorating the U.S. Army Reserve's 100th anniversary, two young men from the Colorado's Fifth District, Sergeant Erice J. Dwelle and Sergeant Otto Earl Searan Jr., re-enlisted to once again serve our Nation. It is an honor to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Army Reserve today. I want to thank every single Army Reserve soldier, both past and present, for the patriotism they have displayed through the years and down to today.

INTRODUCING THE SHINGLES PREVENTION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Shingles Prevention Act.

Many of us have had shingles or know of others, especially over the age of 60, who have. In 2006 a new vaccine was created that prevents occurrence of shingles or dramatically reduces the symptoms and pain of shingles. Experts agree that adults over the age of 60 should receive this immunization.

Half of us will experience shingles by the time we are 80. Shingles is a painful skin rash often accompanied by fever, headache, chills, and upset stomach. What is more pressing is that one in five shingles patients will endure post-herpetic neuralgia—severe pain lasting much longer than the rash itself. The pain can be so intolerable that patients are house-bound, and there have been cases of suicide from the disease. Shingles is most common among seniors because the immune system wanes with age, making Medicare beneficiaries the best candidates for the vaccine.

Since its development in 2006, the shingles vaccine has been recommended for adults 60 years or older by the Centers for Disease Control. However, current Medicare Part D coverage of the vaccine is insufficient. Not all beneficiaries are enrolled in Part D or another drug prescription plan. More important, seniors are facing high out-of-pocket costs due to a lack of coordination among doctors, pharmacies, and Part D plans. For example, there is no established direct billing method between doctors and plans for Part D vaccines. Because of this, beneficiaries typically must pay the full price up front, which results in out-of-pocket costs that limit access to those that need the vaccine the most—our seniors.

The billing problem, the resulting low utilization of the vaccine, and costly storage requirements are enough to keep many doctors from stocking the vaccine. When doctors do not stock, beneficiaries' only alternative is to obtain the vaccine from pharmacists. But many states do not allow pharmacies to administer Part D vaccines, so the beneficiary has to take the vial from the pharmacy back to the physician office. Thus, a senior who is thinking about getting vaccinated would have to go first to the doctor's office for a consult, then to the pharmacist, then back to the doctor for the shot.

Not surprisingly, many seniors are not getting immunized against shingles. This low utili-

zation rate contributes to the half a billion dollars of treatment costs per year and, for hundreds of thousands of seniors, many weeks spent suffering from a disease that could have been prevented.

The Shingles Prevention Act will move shingles vaccine coverage to Part B—thus treating it in the same manner as the flu vaccine under Medicare, simplifying the process for physicians and beneficiaries, and lessening the cost burden for our seniors. This is a common sense and cost effective way to increase access to high quality health care for our seniors, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure its passage.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS OF THE EARTH BY THE LANDSAT SPACECRAFT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 891, celebrating 35 years of space-based observations of the earth by the Landsat spacecraft and looking forward to sustaining the longest unbroken record of civil earth observations of the land, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Colorado, Representative MARK UDALL. This important legislation recognizes the longest running enterprise for acquisition of imagery of Earth from space.

The program was initiated in 1966 as the Earth Resources Observation Satellites program but was later changed to Landsat in 1975. On July 23, 1972, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched Landsat 1, originally called the Earth Resources Technology Satellite, as the first civilian Earth observation satellite to study the Earth's land cover and monitor natural resources. Since 1972, the Landsat program has continued to collect data without interruption through the successful launches of Landsats 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7, and has established the longest and most comprehensive record of global land surface data ever collected.

The year 2007 represents 35 years of continuous collection of space-based observations of the Earth's land cover by the United States Landsat satellites, which have enabled increased scientific understanding of the interrelationships of the Earth's land cover, energy balance, and biogeochemical processes as well as the realization of numerous societal benefits from the applied uses of the data. The consistency of Landsat data over three decades of acquisition offers opportunities to compare land cover changes over time. Landsat greatly enhances remote sensing science that helps give rise to a global change research plan and international initiatives to study the Earth system. Landsat images are also invaluable for emergency response and disaster relief. Advances made in data reception and processing permit rapid access to imagery in times of natural or human-made disaster. Within hours of data acquisition, the USGS Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science provides relief organizations

worldwide with satellite images for disaster response, as well as image-derived products that incorporate information on population density, elevation, and other relevant topics.

Landsat data illuminated for the first time how human decisions led to large-scale impacts on the environment. The U.S. Climate Change Science Program has recognized Landsat and its 3 long-term data record as instrumental to the study of climate and environmental change, noting that Landsat data are invaluable for studying the land surface and how it affects and is affected by climate. The scientific and societal benefits of the Landsat program and its 35-year data record illustrate the significant return on the public investment in Earth observations and the need for continued support for this critical national asset.

Mr. Speaker, I express my appreciation to all of the dedicated scientists, engineers, and program personnel who have contributed to the successful development and operation of the Landsat program over the past 35 years. I urge my fellow colleagues to join me and continue to support the Landsat program and data record so as to sustain Landsat's value to scientific research, especially, the study of global climate change, and to the myriad applied uses of the data for societal benefit.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.

I am just a few years older than the State of Israel, and I remember, as a little Jewish girl, the pride and joy my family felt that a Jewish state was a reality. My parents expressed tremendous relief that there was now a place in the world safe for Holocaust survivors, and a haven for all Jewish people wherever we may live.

We watched with amazement as an arid land turned green as it was transformed into farms and towns. We ourselves planted trees in Israel by buying a tree certificate and gave it to our family friends on every special occasion, so we could participate in making the desert bloom. We all stood a bit taller, and every Passover, the holiday of freedom, was sweeter because Israel wasn't just a longing of our people, but a real country on the map.

That pride burns brightly today. Sixty years later, Israel has weathered war and terrorism and remains a strong, thriving democracy—the only democratic nation in the Middle East and America's closest friend and ally in the region. Israel has become a resource for the United States and the world because of her groundbreaking discoveries in the areas of medicine, energy, clean water, and security technologies.

On her 60th anniversary, the vibrant Jewish community in the Chicagoland area is proud of Israel's pioneering leadership and the strong United States-Israel bond, and works hard every day to strengthen and refresh that relationship.